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# ALASKA PEOPLE

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# Meet the Management Team

Every month ALASKA PEOPLE is featuring one member of the Alaska BLM Management Team. This month, an interview with George Gurr, chief of Public Affairs.

by Valerie Arruda

"How does a person live down the fact that he grew up in Hicksville, New York? My saving grace is that I'm a first generation American, and my folks came from Hungary," said George Gurr.

This proud attitude is the driving force behind the man who heads the Office of Public Affairs and gives purpose and motivation to the people who work with him.

Following graduation from high school, Gurr joined the Marine Corps in 1950. His interest in guns lead him to an assignment in an ammo company.

After the military he attended Utah State University in Logan and graduated in 1958 with a degree in timber management. A BLMer since 1956 (Gurr was a student trainee in Oregon and Colorado), his first full-time job was in Craig and Canon City, Colo., where he worked in forestry. The job included timber cruising, road design, advertising, non-vegetative sales, trespass and fire control.

A year later Gurr moved to Worland, Wyo., where he was responsible for pioneering the forestry program. "I loved it there," he said. "Those were the best six years of my life. We sold a lot of timber and put out a lot of fires."

In 1965 Gurr transferred to the Price, Utah, Castle Valley Job Corps Conservation Center as deputy director. Because of his "can-do, will-do" philosophy, he was promoted to

director a year later. "It was a tough job, with 10 times the pressure of any of my previous jobs. I had no time to sit down," he remembered.

Castle Valley was a 200-man center for socially deprived 16- to 21-year-olds from low income families. "Our goal was to help them become gainfully employed," Gurr said. "In the beginning I worked 16-hour days, 7 days a week. When I arrived, the program was in the concept stage. It was up to the staff to develop a curriculum and plan on-the-job training."

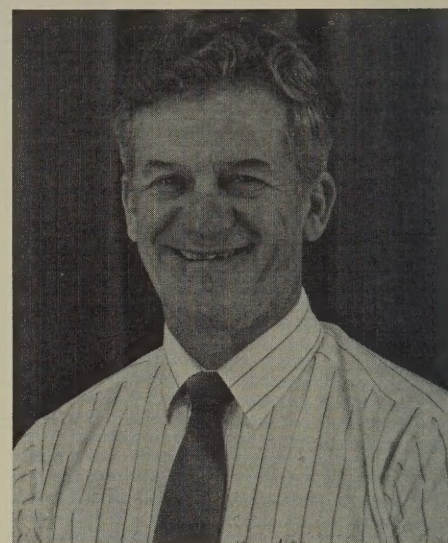
Programs at the center included building roads and dams, developing recreation sites, welding, carpentry and formal education. Gurr proudly added, "We put more men in the military than any other job corps center." Because there was no existing plan to follow, Gurr invented as he went along. "If I saw an avenue, I took it and didn't ask any questions."

In 1968 Gurr moved to Washington, D.C., as coordinator of the Johnny Horizon Environmental Education Program. "Johnny Ho" represented the concerned citizen. The program's emphasis was on litter control and protecting the environment. Through a series of concerts and public service announcements involving celebrities such as Burl Ives, Ed McMahon, Cecily Tyson and "Captain Kangaroo," Johnny Horizon became a nationwide program. "I started at ground zero, a real greenhorn," Gurr said, "but by the time the program was dismantled in 1976, it was becoming a household word."

From the nation's capital, Gurr went to Oregon as manager for BLM's Vale District Office.

In 1976 he competed for and was selected to head a program for the United States and the Saudi Arabian governments in Riyadh, S.A. "I took the five-year program objectives and developed ways we Americans could transfer our knowledge to help the Saudis in reaching their goals. I was trying to sell America," Gurr explained. "In the end the Saudis were sold on America and on the BLM."

Three years later Washington, D.C., again beckoned Gurr, this time as administrator in the Office of Special Projects. "My job was to track highly visible energy projects and keep them moving — a very sensitive assignment," he said. "Some of the projects in which we were involved included the ETSI coal slurry pipeline, the Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System, the Northern Tier Pipeline, the Rocky Mountain Pipeline and the MX missile siting."



George Gurr

Gurr was lured to the Greatland in November 1981 to take the helm of Public Affairs. He oversees the office with determination and high expectation, allowing the staff flexibility and freedom to perform their duties. Frequent "brainstorming" sessions allow the creative juices to flow freely and keep the employees well informed of issues involving BLM.

Away from the office Gurr's interests include hunting, fishing, target and trap shooting, reloading and auto mechanics. He enjoys long walks with his wife, Lorena, and is an active member of the Anchorage South Rotary Club.

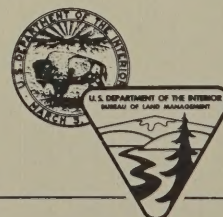
## ON THE COVER:

*Seasons Greetings from Alaska BLM's Management Team.*

(back row, left to right) John Rumps, Bob Arndorfer, Roger Bolstad, Tom Dean, Bob Jones, George Gurr, Don Runberg. (middle row) Bishop Buckle, Fran Eickbush, Mike Penfold, Fred Wolf, Reed Smith. (front row) Jerry Zamber, Gene Terland, Wayne Boden, Tom Owen.

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Jim Mroczek, Illustrator





# Whether Fit or Fat... They All Had Fun!

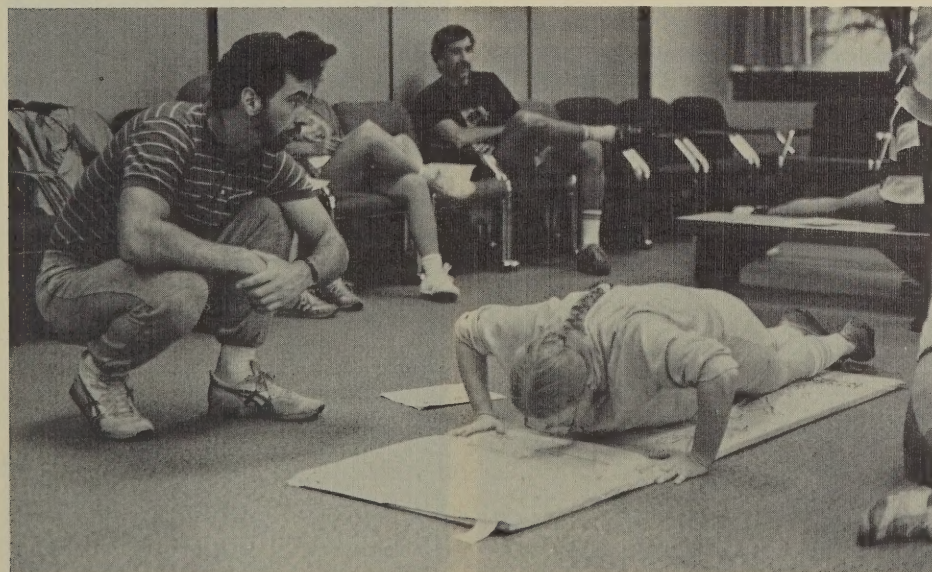
BLM employees recently had the chance to see what kind of shape they were in at the Blue Cross/Blue Shield Fitness Fair sponsored by the Anchorage Federal Building Health Unit.

Employees were asked to take a step test to measure their cardiovascular endurance, stretch to show their flexibility, squeeze a hand grip and do situps and pushups to measure their muscular strength. They also had their body fat measured.

"A lot of people didn't do as bad as they thought they would," says Blanche Tinius, Health Unit nurse. "The majority of the participants found the results of the tests a good incentive to get going on an exercise program. For others the results were encouragement that their fitness program is paying off.

"The interest in the tests was high, and I received a lot of positive comments. Ninety-three federal employees participated; an additional 30 were wait-listed."

In addition to the tests, everyone had the opportunity to participate in one of two half-hour, low-impact aerobic exercise classes designed to demonstrate the correct way to do aerobics and to encourage everyone to exercise.




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(top photo) "Bet you can't top this!" RN Stuart Warren tests the arm muscle strength of Ann Richardson (middle) and Becky Aviles.

(middle photo) 17, 18, 19... Kenneth Brewster takes the situps test from Blue Cross representative Judy Ellis.

(left) "Come on...just one more!" RN Stuart Warren tests Danielle Dines in pushups.

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# Rumps Assembles Team

story & photo by Danielle Allen



Amidst the chaos of moving sit John Rumps (top), and his assistant district managers (left to right) Sandy Dunn, Laun Buoy, and Helen Hankins.

Looking for John Rumps? Try his office. Most likely you will find him hunched over a stack of papers. He's accessible and ready to listen; most of all he's ready for business.

Rumps has been in business as Anchorage district manager for nearly two months. A strong team player, he is relying on his team of assistant district managers to work with him in decision making.

"I will be responsible for decisions, but each of the ADMs will serve as a focal point for the technical expertise of their staffs and will have a vital role in shaping those decisions," he says.

Sandy Dunn, assistant district manager for the Branch of Lands, heads the largest staff, with 17 people. The work emphasis is, of course, on lands and realty activities. She says, "I'm striving for consistency in the division. With the way we're set up now, the work responsibilities will cross geographic lines. The specialists should get some spice in their lives with the mix of work and geographic locales."

A state office transplant, Laun Buoy is the assistant district manager for Biological Resources. The workload for his eight-person staff is the most diverse and includes the geographic information system (GIS) plus wildlife, fisheries, subsistence, cultural, recreation, forestry and fire

management programs. "I think the functional design we have created and the need for a consensus among the ADMs will allow us to get things done. It's going to be a lot of fun."

Assistant district manager for the Branch of Physical Resources is Helen Hankins. Her staff of seven will handle the district's minerals, hydrology and surface protection programs. "I'm confident that with the minerals and surface programs operating functionally instead of geographically, it will increase the effectiveness of the programs." She adds, "We didn't have a strong surface program, and for a long time we haven't had a hydrologist. So we will be focusing on these programs."

Priorities as outlined by Rumps for this fiscal year include the development of a plan to manage Campbell Tract, the 730 acres administered by BLM in the Anchorage bowl. As lead agency for preservation of the Iditarod National Historic Trail, BLM will be making nominations to the National Register of Historic Places, analyzing land ownership along the Trail and negotiating cooperative trail management agreements. Efforts will be intensified on GIS, easement management, 3809 programs and the district's contribution to the patent plan process.

## The Smoother Movers

story & photo by Danielle Allen

It is getting to be "one of those days" for warehouseman Mel D'Anza. He begins to pace himself. Leaning against a wall, he takes a breath and says, "We're all beat."

D'Anza is speaking for the guys in the Support Services warehouse. He along with Steve Sandy, Carl Thorpe, John Pulling, Larry Peterson and Bucky Blankenship have been pulling, pushing, straining, sweating, huffing, hauling and moving offices at the Anchorage district for two weeks.

"About one more week and we'll be finished," he says. The implementation of the BLM reorganization has created a massive relocation of employees. Practically everyone has been moved into new office space except the divisions of Mineral Resources and Cadastral Survey.

The move should be completed early in December when the ASO pipeline

office staff is moved to the Campbell Tract facility. They will be joining the newly relocated state office property and procurement staffs. It is estimated that the five-ton truck will be filled 12 times before the pipeline move is done.

D'Anza says, "It may have been better for us to move after hours. More than once I would take a desk from an office only to have one of the guys replace it with an identical desk moved from the other side of the building."

*Mel D'Anza moves one of an endless number of cabinets.*





# Galena Flush Job

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

Thanks to a long-term construction project completed by the Fairbanks District Office's engineering branch, sewer lines in Galena can be flushed from Fairbanks.

In 1982 the state Department of Health determined that the sewer and water system for the Alaska Fire Service's Galena station did not meet state standards, threatening closure of the station. BLM's Alaska State Office engineering staff designed a new water and sewer system to connect with the one at the Air Force station there. Construction began in 1985.

A "utilidor" is made of 18-inch corrugated metal pipe insulated to create a stable environment for the smaller pipes inside. One of those pipes carries glycol, antifreeze in case the heating system fails. The glycol is heated by steam from the Air Force pipes to 60° F and circulated through the utilidor to keep the other pipes warm. The water used for drinking and washing is obtained from the Air Force and is constantly circulated to avoid freezing. The sewage is sent to the Air Force's sewage treatment plant, and electric cables come from the Air Force inside another pipe. BLM pays the Air Force for utilities during the operational season.

"Bureau-wide, this project was the largest new construction project ever undertaken by BLM employees," said Bob Boyce, an engineer in the support center.

Boyce headed the project, and Wage Leader Dutch Goen ramrodded it. "The job might not be finished yet," said Al Cunningham, maintenance supervisor, "if Goen hadn't found ways to correct design problems and save construction money."

Goen received an incentive award for two suggestions. One was to use a computer to control the system from Fairbanks, and the second was to use salvaged steel pipe from the Trans-Alaska Pipeline as culvert protectors.

With the inadequate sewage system used by the Galena Zone Headquarters in the past, BLM personnel pumped waste and sewage into trucks for disposal at the local Air Force treatment plant.

"Not only will the new system meet the state code," Cunningham said, "it will save hours of manpower and equipment time. One savings will come from not having to fly out and bring the water on-line in the spring. That will be the first time we will bring the system

on-line with the computer, so we will see how winter affected it and how well it works."

One of the greatest benefits is the cut-back on travel. In the past if there was a malfunction, a repairman would have to fly 250 miles to Galena to check it out. If he didn't have the right part or tool, whatever he needed would be flown out on the next flight. Now, because of Goen's suggestions, the computer diagnoses the problem and identifies any needed parts.

Maintenance staff can open and close valves in Galena, increase the steam heating the glycol and monitor the system's daily performance from a computer located in the support center building in Fairbanks. The system also has several fail-safes built into it, such as an automatic shut-down if there is a sudden drop in water pressure and a flashing light and siren to alert Air Force personnel to a malfunction.

(right) Dan Mulhall and Al Lot direct the placement of 48-inch steel pipe left over from the Alyeska pipeline. The pipe was cut in half and set over the utilidor pipe at road crossings to prevent the pipe from crushing.

(below) Ron Long and James "Marv" Morgan fit the copper pipes for sewer, water, electrical conduit and glycol into the 18-inch corrugated metal pipe. The pipe is insulated to keep the heat from the glycol from dissipating.



photos by Dutch Goen



# Fairbanks Celebrates Alaska Native Heritage

photo & story by Sharon Durgan Wilson

The Bureau of Land Management in Fairbanks celebrated Alaska Native Heritage Week with three distinctive and informative presentations coordinated by Charlene Heath, manager of the Alaska Native/American Indian Employment Program.

On October 22 Kay Thomas and Jack Singer, from the Alaska Studies Department of the University of Alaska-Fairbanks, addressed an all-employees' meeting on inter-ethnic communications. They showed a videotape of people from different cultures talking but not understanding each other because of their diverse cultural

upbringing. Thomas and Singer then suggested ways to communicate with people of other cultures to avoid misinterpretation. Many employees commented that the same skills could also be used for daily communication between people of the same culture.

Martha Baron, a traditional storyteller, presented a short course on survival skills in the wilderness. Born and raised in Ruby, Alaska, she demonstrated how to attract and kill a moose or bear, how to make a net to catch fish or small game and how to use nature's materials for medicinal healing or for creating a utensil needed while

living in the woods.

Later in the week, a videotape of the Old-Time Athabascan Fiddling Festival was shown, courtesy of the Tanana Chiefs Conference. It featured fiddlers and dancers at the festival and interviews with the fiddlers on their feelings about the music. It was the prelude to a performance of guitar, harmonica and fiddle playing by Tom Owen, manager of the Alaska Fire Service. Dan Gullickson of public affairs joined him in a grand finale fiddle/guitar duet.



(left) AFS Manager Tom Owen demonstrates his talents on the guitar and harmonica.

(right) Martha Baron, traditional storyteller, demonstrates how to dress a baby warmly with nature's materials while surviving in the woods.



## CFC Results

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

Times are tough, but BLMers opened their hearts and wallets and gave generously to this year's Combined Federal Campaign. Fairbanks district employees proudly watched the mercury in the CFC thermometer rise week by week. As the weather grew colder, employees showed their warmth by contributing \$5,752.50 to the annual campaign. Craig Casner, cartographic technician with the title and records section, designed the thermometer to track the progress of the campaign.

Bill Baker, carpenter with the Northern Support Center maintenance shop, headed the northern BLM campaign this year. His group of 16 key people collected funds and payroll deduction commitments from 33 percent of the employees.

"This was a very satisfying endeavor," Baker said proudly. "The key people did an excellent job of contacting their co-workers, and we surpassed our \$5,000 goal by 15 percent."

Anchorage area employees contributed \$16,117.50 to the campaign.

## Penfold Addresses NSTA Conference

by Joette Storm

BLM State Director Michael Penfold told teachers at the National Science Teachers Association conference last month that their role is not only to teach students to be technically competent but to help them to be good integrators so they may have the ability to deal with complex natural resource issues as adults. Penfold participated in a panel on the "educator's role in natural resource management" at the association's regional conference in Anchorage.

"Today BLM is blessed with an interested public," he said, "one that wants to be involved in natural resource decisions, and that is healthy." He added that the public needs to be able to see the broad picture when analyzing resource allocation issues.

Representatives of the Alaska Federation of Natives, the National Park Service, Alaska Department of Natural Resources, Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Forest Service joined Penfold on the panel, which addressed teachers from school districts across the nation who had come to Anchorage for the meeting.



## Harmony? or Conflict?

by Sue Michael

Conflict or harmony — many times the choice is ours. I found this out when I took a course recently. Having been out of school for many years, I was nervous at the thought of taking a class at Anchorage Community College. Walking into the room I thought, "What am I doing here? How will I survive three hours a night sitting in these chairs?"

There was a mixture of people in the room; and as we introduced ourselves, I realized there were people from all walks of life and of all ages. We were there for the same purpose — to learn how to interact with people. The class was entitled "Harmony or Conflict: Controlling the Hidden Work Environment."

Do you really know what is important in dealing with your work environment or other areas in your life? I thought I did but found out differently. One of the assignments was to make forced choices about what is important. The results are often surprising. We did a test case in class about the most important items in the work environment. By choosing several different aspects, you discover that the items most frequently chosen are the most important to you.

From our guest speakers I learned that emotions have a profound effect on our lives. Every thought creates an emotion. To an extent, our emotions affect the way we feel and our outlook on life. The way we see and talk to ourselves is very important. A positive outlook always helps me feel better; and when I feel better, I do better.

Reality is never the same for any two people. Sometimes we want to change another person's behavior or attitude; we can change our own, but we can't change anyone else's. We can only influence them to change by letting them know how we feel. Many times we can ease a tense situation simply by being courteous.

This class pointed out techniques to deal with problems by setting priorities, establishing goals and recognizing the importance of our behavior. As the class came to a close, I realized how thoroughly I enjoyed it and how much I learned. We started with the thought that we all need others and ended with the thought that we are not alone and must use compromise and tolerance.

If you are interested in more information about this class or others at ACC or the University of Alaska-Anchorage, please call Sue Michael in the Employee Development Section at 271-3173.

## BLM Represented at Career Fair



*Personnel clerk Joy Brozovsky and Outdoor Recreation Specialist Tom Dew talk to a student about BLM careers at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks Career Fair.*

by Susan Swartz

A record 51 agencies attended the annual Career Fair at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks on November 12. BLM personnel clerks Linda Williams and Joy Brozovsky distributed information about career opportunities in the BLM and answered questions about federal employment and summer jobs with the Alaska Fire Service and the district offices.

"It is fun to see how the questions differ from year to year," Williams said. Tom Dew, an outdoor recreation planner, and Rodger Vorce, smokejumper manager, agreed. This year the students had questions about geology and natural resources positions, while last year the questions focused on firefighting.

In addition to BLM, there were representatives from the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Defense, Bureau of Mines, National Park Service, numerous state of Alaska agencies, the FBI and CIA, the Fairbanks Convention and Visitor's Center, banks, universities and local businesses. "It was a real interesting mix," Williams said.

## Personal Notes

BLM clerical assistant **Mary Jane O'Daniel** represented the Tundra Talkers Toastmasters in the Humorous Speech contest sponsored by the Yukon/Alaska Council of Toastmasters in Anchorage on October 10. The post-banquet contest was held at the Sheraton Hotel as a final event of the Toastmasters' fall conference. O'Daniel placed third in a field of seven speakers. Three weeks earlier she had placed first in a speech contest sponsored by the three clubs in the Fairbanks area, entitling her to compete in Anchorage.

The Fairbanks Light Opera Theatre, a local musical stage company composed entirely of volunteers and known as "FLOT," received valuable behind-the-scenes assistance from several BLM employees during its most recent performance. During FLOT's recent production of "Mame," purchasing agent **Winnie Brudevold** was assistant stage manager, natural resource specialist **Jerry McGee** moved stage props between scenes, office services supervisor **Kanza Easterly-Keill** was house manager and program analyst **Tula Belton** was assistant house manager. In that position Kanza recruited volunteer ushers for each performance, tapping fellow BLMers **Kim Hoy**, **Connie Monroe**, **Carol Nicholson**, **Mary Jane O'Daniel**, **Helen Doeding**, **Don Keill** and **Sharon Wilson** to usher one evening and **Dan Gullickson** to take tickets.





# Applause

## SPECIAL ACHIEVEMENT

**Thomie Gardner**, Clerk Typist, McGrath Resource Area  
**Craig Altop**, Wildlife Biologist, ADO  
**Kirk Rowdabaugh**, Natural Resource Specialist, ADO  
**Michael Wrabetz**, Environmental Planner, ADO  
**Herbert Brasseur**, Supervisory General Engineer, ADO  
**Sandra Smith**, Procurement Clerk, ADO  
**Robert Lloyd**, Realty Specialist, Peninsula Resource Area  
**Constance Monroe**, Administrative Services Manager, FDO  
**Mary Jane O'Daniel**, Clerical Assistant, FDO  
**Ethel McMilin**, Computer Programmer Analyst, FDO  
**Tula Belton**, Program Analyst, FDO  
**A. John Palmer**, Electronic Mechanic, AFS  
**Kevin Henry**, Automotive Mechanic, AFS  
**Corey Doolin**, Forestry Technician, AFS  
**Dianne Thompson**, Land Law Examiner, ASO  
**Connie Tefeteller**, Position Classification Specialist, ASO  
**Elizabeth Greycloud**, Forestry Technician, AFS  
**Kim Hoy**, Mail & File Clerk, ASO  
**Barbara Partin**, Secretary, ASO  
**Kay Schaeffer**, Secretary, ASO  
**Clemencia Florez**, Miscellaneous Documents Examiner, ASO  
**Linda DuLac**, Land Law Examiner, ASO  
**ASO Levine**, Land Law Examiner, ASO  
**Marcella Goins**, Cartographic Technician, ASO  
**Rita Connell**, Cartographic Technician, ASO  
**Ann Richardson**, Cartographic Technician, ASO

**Margaret Everingham**, Legal Clerk, ASO  
**William Johnston**, Cartographic Technician, ASO  
**Benard Benson**, Cartographic Technician, ASO  
**Douglas Dilts**, Cartographic Technician, ASO  
**Richard Hagen**, Landscape Architect, ASO

## UNIT AWARD

**Ben Olson**, Appraiser, ASO  
**Gary McWilliams**, Appraiser, ASO

## APPRECIATION AWARD

**Laurie Calderhead**, Land Law Examiner, ASO  
**Linda Brooks**, Land Law Examiner, ASO  
**Stephanie Clusiau**, Land Law Examiner, ASO

## QUALITY STEP INCREASE

**Shirley Keisor**, Lead Legal Technician, ASO  
**Lynn Rogers**, Cartographic Aide, ASO  
**Don Mueller**, Administrative Officer, ADO  
**Betty Jo Ostby**, Legal Clerk, ASO  
**Margaret Jensen**, Supervisory Realty Specialist, ADO  
**Sandra Dunn**, Supervisory Realty Specialist, ADO  
**Terrance O'Sullivan**, Outdoor Recreation Planner, ADO  
**Laurie Riesterer**, Secretary, ADO  
**Arlene Rocker**, Realty Specialist, ADO  
**Janet Sosnowski**, Realty Specialist, ADO

## SUSTAINED SUPERIOR PERFORMANCE AWARD

**Ronnie Alston**, General Supply Specialist, ADO

## WELCOME ABOARD November 1986

**Jim Kimbal**, Forestry Technician, AFS  
**Dawn Grant**, Clerk Typist, ASO

## MOVING ON November 1986

**Linda Bass**, Forestry Technician, AFS

## Join the Libby Riddles Booster Club

BLM employees with a yen to get involved in the Iditarod Sled Dog Race can join the Libby Riddles Booster Club and help the former BLMer prepare for the 1987 race.

On January 6 at 11:30 a.m. there will be a Booster Club meeting in the Denali Room on the 4th floor of the federal building. At that time potential members will learn how they can support Libby by making booties, stenciling drop bags and preparing other equipment.

Riddles will meet with club members at a future date to discuss the race and answer questions about dog training.

The former Anchorage district security guard did a Take Pride in America public service announcement for BLM last year as a volunteer.

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